

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-18 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, Applicants amend claim 10. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims at least in light of the following remarks.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,839,843 to Bacha et al. (Hereinafter "Bacha") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,926,824 to Hashimoto. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

As the Office Action correctly points out, Bacha fails to disclose, teach, or suggest at least at least "defining a retrieval condition for retrieving an object, the retrieval condition being defined based on at least one attribute of the object" and "setting an access right in association with the retrieval condition," as recited in claim 1; and "access control means for managing a retrieval condition for retrieving an object, an identifier set for identifying the object, and an access right that has been set in association with the retrieval condition, thereby controlling access to the object, the retrieval condition being defined based on at least one attribute of the object" and "retrieval means for retrieving an object stored in the object storing means on the basis of the retrieval condition and the identifier," as recited in claim 10.

Hashimoto fails to make up for the above deficiencies of Bacha. Hashimoto only discloses locating documents based on a retrieval condition (1203) such as document name, document creation date, document creator, document keyword, and the like (C8/L1-13). Hashimoto does not in any way disclose, teach, or even suggest, controlling access to a document based on the retrieval condition.

The Office Action alleges that a skilled artisan would be motivated to use the setting of a retrieval condition, as allegedly disclosed by Hashimoto, in the system of Bacha "to be easy [sic] for retrieving a document in accordance with attributes of a document construction more efficient" (page 4, Office Action). However, such a motivation and teaching would, at most,

suggest locating documents based on the documents attributes, not controlling access to documents based on the document attributes, i.e., setting an access right in accordance with the retrieval condition, as recited in claims 1 and 10.

Accordingly, the combination of Bacha and Hashimoto cannot reasonably be considered to disclose, teach, or suggest at least at least "defining a retrieval condition for retrieving an object, the retrieval condition being defined based on at least one attribute of the object" and "setting an access right in association with the retrieval condition," as recited in claim 1; and "access control means for managing a retrieval condition for retrieving an object, an identifier set for identifying the object, and an access right that has been set in association with the retrieval condition, thereby controlling access to the object, the retrieval condition being defined based on at least one attribute of the object" and "retrieval means for retrieving an object stored in the object storing means on the basis of the retrieval condition and the identifier," as recited in claim 10.

Claims 1 and 10 are thus patentable over the combination of Bacha and Hashimoto. Furthermore, claims 2-9 and 11-18 are patentable for at least the reasons that claims 1 and 10 are patentable, as well as for the additional features they recite. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

In view of at least the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Applicants earnestly solicit favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-18.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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